



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 227, June 21, 2024

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

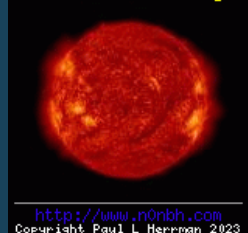
Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

22 Jun 2024 1717 GMT
SFI: 197 SN: 138
A-Index: 5
K-Index: 1
X-Ray: C2.5
304A: 150.4 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 14
Elc Flx: 3050
Aurora: 1/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -0.7
Solar Wind: 308.8
Geomag Field VR QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

5H, TANZANIA. Chas, NK8O will be QRV as **5H3DX** near Dodoma from **June 18th to 30th**. Activity will be in his spare time on 30 to 10 meters using CW, FT8, and FT4 both in DXpedition mode. QSL direct to [NK8O](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 June 13, 2024] (0614-0705)

8Q, MALDIVES. Felix, DL6JF will be active holiday style as **8Q7JF** from the Maldives (AS-013) on **June 16th-29th**. He will operate CW and some FT (F/H) on 30-6 meters. QSL via [DM5JBN](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1727 June 8, 2024] (0614-0628)

9M6, EAST MALAYSIA. Team **9M1Z** will be active from Tanjung Datu (the western tip of Malaysian Borneo), Sarawak on **June 15th-30th**. Look for activity on 80-6 meters SSB, CW and FT8. See <https://www.marhazk.com/9m1z/> for more information. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog, LoTW, and QRZ Logbook. QSL direct to [9W8ZZK](#) or [9M8WIN](#)
 -[425DXN # 1727 June 8, 2024] (0614-0705)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DM6ØIOTA** will be used by DARC Team SES to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Islands On The Air program. Plans are to be active from all of the German IOTA groups (EU-042, EU-047, EU-057, EU-127, EU-128 and EU-129), but **dates of operation are still unknown**. QSL via the bureau, or direct to [DL2VFR](#).
 -[425DXN # 1727 June 8, 2024] (0607-0628)

DL, GERMANY. The following special event callsigns will be active from **June 14th to July 17th** around the European Football Championship: **DL2Ø24E**, **DL2Ø24U**, **DL2Ø24R**, and **DL2Ø24O**. Awards are available: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/dx/sonderdiplome/>. QSL via DARC QSL bureau, [DL2VFR](#).
 -[DXNL # 2409 June 5, 2024] (0607-0719)

DL, GERMANY. The Berlin Airlift was an operation that carried supplies by plane to the Allied sectors of West Berlin over a Russian blockade. For more than a year, hundreds of American, British and French cargo planes ferried provisions to West Berlin's Tempelhof, Gatow and Tegel airfields. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Berlin Airlift, three special event stations will be active from **May 12th until June 24th**: **DLØGWW** for Gatow, **DLØTXL** for Tegel, and **DLØTHF** for Tempelhof. An award will be available: <https://ham-awards.de/index.php/75luft/>. An operating schedule is available here: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/distrikte/l/ortsverbaende/33/75luft/>. Paper QSL cards will not be provided; QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, and the DARC Community Logbook.
 -[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0517-0628)

DU, PHILIPPINES. Christian, F4EBK is active as **DU3/F4EBK** from Luzon Island (OC-042) **until early 2025**. He is QRV on 20, 15 and 10 meters, typically around 0900 UTC and after 2100 UTC. QSL via [F4EUQ](#).
 -[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0712)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of June 21, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. KP5	Desecheo Island
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>
 -[KØCF June 21, 2024] (0621-0712)

E7, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA. Special callsign **E71ØØRADIO** is for ARAuBiH, the Bosnia and Herzegovina IARU member society, to celebrate "100 years of amateur radio innovation, community and advocacy". A printable QSL card can be requested at <https://arabih.ba/request-e7100radio-qsl/>.
 -[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0712)

F, FRANCE. During the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay and the actual Olympic Games, look for **TM67OG** to be active for fifteen days from **June 25th to July 27th**, and **TM67JO** to be active for another fifteen days from **July 26th until August 11th**. The operators will be F1LFL (SSB), F5PZT (FT8 and FT4) and F5TFW (CW). QSL via [F1LFL](#).
 -[425DXN # 1728 June 15, 2024] (0621-0816)

F, FRANCE. Olympic Games Special Event Stations The special event station **TM51OG** will be active around the Torch Relay from **June 23rd to 30th**. The callsign **TM51JO** will be active from **July 26th to August 9th** during the Olympic Games and the special event station **TM51JP** from **August 28th to September 8th** during the Paralympic Games. For more information see [TM51OG](#), [TM51JO](#) and [TM51JP](#) on qrz.com. QSL all three via [F5JYD](#).

-[DXNL # 2411 June 19, 2024] (0621-0705)

F, FRANCE. Celebrating the Olympic Games Paris 2024, members of Radio Clubs F5KDC and F4KLW will be active as **TM63JO** on **June 16th-23rd**, July 26th-28th and August 8th-11th. eQSL via <https://www.oly24.fr/awardform.html>; paper cards will not be issued.

-[425DXN # 1727 June 8, 2024] (0614-0628)

F, FRANCE. Vitaly, F4WBU will be active as **TM17CEF** on **June 14th-28th**, and as **TM24F** from **June 29th to July 14th**. The special callsigns are for the 17th edition of the UEFA European Football Championship, the quadrennial international men's football (soccer) championship of Europe to be held in Germany. QSL via [F4WBU](#) and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1728 June 15, 2024] (0614-0719)

F, FRANCE. Special event station **TM85JO** operates around the Olympic Torch stages from **May 8th to 12th**, **June 8th to 9th**, **June 21st to 23rd**, **July 12th to 14th**, and on **July 26th**. QSL via bureau.

-[DXNL # 2405 May 8, 2024] (0510-0726)

FS, SAINT MARTIN. Gregg, W6IZT and Hal, W8HC will be active as **FS/W6IZT** and **FS/W8HC** from St Martin (NA-105) from **June 25th to July 2nd**. They will be QRV on 40-6 meters. Gregg will be taking one or two of his NexGen RiBs; his "tentative" plans are to identify a suitable location for the RIB on the Dutch (PJ7) side of the island while operating simultaneously from the French (FS) side".

-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0705)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Operators at club station FY5KE are QRV as **TO6ØCSG** each weekend in April, May, and June to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Guiana Space Centre. See detailed information at [TO6ØCSG](#). QSL direct to [FY5KE](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 4, 2024] (0405-0628)

G, ENGLAND. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy (June 6, 1944), members of the Newbury and District Amateur Radio Society will be active as **GB8ØDDAY** from **June 1st to 28th**, with a special focus of activity on June 6th. QSL via eQSL, or via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1725 May 25, 2024] (0531-0628)

G, ENGLAND. Joining Guglielmo Marconi's 150th anniversary celebrations, the Cornish Radio Amateur Club (GX4CRC) will be active as **GB15ØGM** from **April 27th until July 27th**. This activity participates in the "Marconi 150 Award", organized by the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) and the Coordinamento Stazioni Marconiane Italiane (CSMI) under the patronage of the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation. See IR2GMCL below. QSL via eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0426-0726)

GI, NORTHERN IRELAND. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings (June 6, 1944), the Rushyhill Radio Society (MNØUGP) will be active as **GB8DDY** from **June 1st to 28th**. A certificate will be available, but QSL cards will not be provided - see <https://www.qrz.com/db/GB8DDY> for information.

-[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0531-0628)

GJ, JERSEY. Michael, DF8AN will be QRV as **MJ/DF8AN** from **June 19th to 25th**. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using various digital modes and some CW. QSL to [DF8AN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 June 13, 2024] (0614-0628)

GM, SCOTLAND. Dave, G8LY (G8LIY), operates holiday-style from the Shetlands (EU-012) as **GM8LIY**. On June 18th he was on Yell, on **June 21st** he will be on Unst, on **June 24th** on the main island. QSL via [G8LY](#).

-[DXNL # 2411 June 19, 2024] (0621-0628)

GM, SCOTLAND. Look for **GB9DAT** to be active on **June 1st-28th** on a variety of digital modes (including FT8, FT4, PSK, and RTTY, among others). This is a "special event station dedicated to advancing and promoting digital modes in amateur radio". QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [MMØDFV](#).

-[425DXN # 1725 May 25, 2024] (0531-0628)

HL, SOUTH KOREA. A large group of Korean amateurs will be active from Yonghung Island (AS-105) as **6M6M** from **June 21st to 23rd**. QRV mostly on 6m (CW, SSB, FT8) with an 8 element Yagi up 42 meters. QSL via [DS2GWM](#).

-[DXNL # 2411 June 19, 2024] (0621-0628)

HP, PANAMA. The callsign **3E7D** will be aired from the national parks in the Darien province from **June 1, 2024 until June 1, 2025**. QSL via [HP1AVS](#).

-[DXNL # 2410 June 12, 2024] (0614-0705)

I, ITALY. Celebrating Pesaro Capitale Italiana della Cultura (Italian Capital of Culture) 2024, members of ARI Pesaro and ARI Fano will be active as **I6CIC** from **June 1st to August 29th**. QSL via [I66PS](#).

-[425DXN # 1725 May 25, 2024] (0531-0830)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Colli Albani (IQØHV) will be active as **IØLOR** from **May 31st to June 30th** to mark the 80th anniversary of the Liberation of Rome (June 4, 1944). A certificate will be available, see <https://www.qrz.com/db/IØLOR> for information. QSL via [IØKNQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1725 May 25, 2024] (0531-0705)

I, ITALY. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi, members of ARI's Board of Directors will be active as **IR2GMCL** from **April 28th to July 27th** during the "Marconi 150 Award". See <https://www.qrz.com/db/IR2GMCL> for the rules. Paper QSL cards will not be provided; electronic QSLs may be downloaded from the HamAward platform.

-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0426-0726)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Venezia (IQ3VE) will be active as **IR3POLO** from **April 1st to June 30th**. The special callsign commemorates the 700th anniversary since the death of Marco Polo, the Venetian merchant and explorer who travelled through Asia along the Silk Road (1271-1295). All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1716 March 23, 2024] (0329-0628)

JA, JAPAN. Moto, JA1GZV will be active again as **JS6UKY/6** from various cities and villages on Okinawa Island (AS-017) on **June 20th-27th**. He will operate CW on or around 7011, 10123, 14011, 18075, 21011, 24897 and 28011 kHz. QSL via JS6UKY (bureau), eQSL, or direct to [JA1GZV](#).

-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0628)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active again from the Miyako Islands (AS-079) from **April 24th to June 26th**. Callsigns to be used are **JS6RRR**, **JS6RRR/6**, **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** and **JR8YLY/6** on SSB and CW, as well as **JS6RRR/p**, **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p** and **JR8YLY/p** on FT8/FT4. QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW Matching on the IOTA website.

-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0419-0628)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ plans to be QRV as **JG8NQJ/JD1** beginning around **June 20th**, and here for about **three months** while working at the weather station. Activity will be in his limited spare time on the HF bands using CW and some FT8. QSL direct to [JA8CJY](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 June 13, 2024] (0614-0705)

KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA. After leaving Lord Howe I., Yuris, YL2GM, will be active as **K8K** for another week from **June 26th to July 9th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [YL2GN](#).

-[425DXN # 1726 June 1, 2024] (0621-0712)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special callsign **OE7ØVIE** marks the 70th anniversary of Vienna International Airport (IATA code VIE) from **June 21st to September 30th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW in due course, or via [OE6VIE](#).

-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0927)

SP, POLAND. Special callsigns **SP9ØØCPZ**, **3Z1OTTON**, **HF1OTTON**, **SN1OTTON**, **SO1OTTON**, **SP1OTTON** and **SQ1OTTON** will be active from **June 3rd to July 2nd** to mark the 900th anniversary of the first mission to Pomerania undertaken by Otto, bishop of Bamberg. A certificate will be available, see <https://sp1kze.pzk.org.pl/900.html#en> for information.
-[425DXN # 1726 June 1, 2024] (0531-0705)

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN has been unable to be very active as **TR8CR** because of "problems with his amplifier". He is going back to France in the next few days for a family event" but expects to return to Gabon in **early July** with a new amplifier for at least a month. He will operate CW only and will celebrate his 96th birthday while there. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](#).
-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0705)

VK9L, LORD HOWE I. Yuris, YL2GM will be active as **VK9LA** from Lord Howe Island (OC-004) on **June 14th-24th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 160-10 meters. Updates will be posted to <https://lral.lv/vk9la/index.html>. After Lord Howe, Yuris is expected to be QRV as **K8K** from American Samoa for another week from **June 26th to July 9th**. The Northern California DX Foundation has granted its financial support to Yuris ("one of the most prolific DXpeditioners today"), as "wherever he goes with a radio, he can be counted upon to create quite a commotion on the bands". Full LoTW upload six months after the end of the DXpedition. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [YL2GN](#).
-[425DXN # 1726 June 1, 2024] (0614-0628)

VP2V, BRITISH VIRGIN IS. Dave, W9DR will be QRV as **VP2V/W9DR** from Anegada (NA-023) from **June 19th to 25th**. Activity is on 6 meters only from Grid Square FK78tr using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL direct to [W9DR](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 22 June 13, 2024] (0614-0628)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS IS. Adrian, AA5UK will be active holiday style as **VP5/AA5UK** from Providenciales (NA-002), Turks and Caicos Islands from **June 23rd to July 5th**. He will operate digital modes (FT8, RTTY, Olivia) and SSB on 40-6 meters, and will also be QRV via satellite (updates will be posted to <https://x.com/AA5UK>). QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and in due course to LoTW. QSL direct to [AA5UK](#).
-[425DXN # 1728 June 15, 2024] (0621-0705)

VU, INDIA. The following special event stations draw attention to India's military action in the Kargil-Himalaya region 25 years ago: Sonderstationen **AT25A** (VU2AAP), **AT25ESE** (VU2ES), **AT25G** (VU2BPC), **AT25I** (VU2TFU), **AT25K** (VU2XZ), **AT25L** (VU2TBM), and **AT25R** (VU2EHR). QRV **until June 24th** on HF and via QO-100. QSL via [VU2LCH](#).
-[DXNL # 2411 June 19, 2024] (0621-0628)

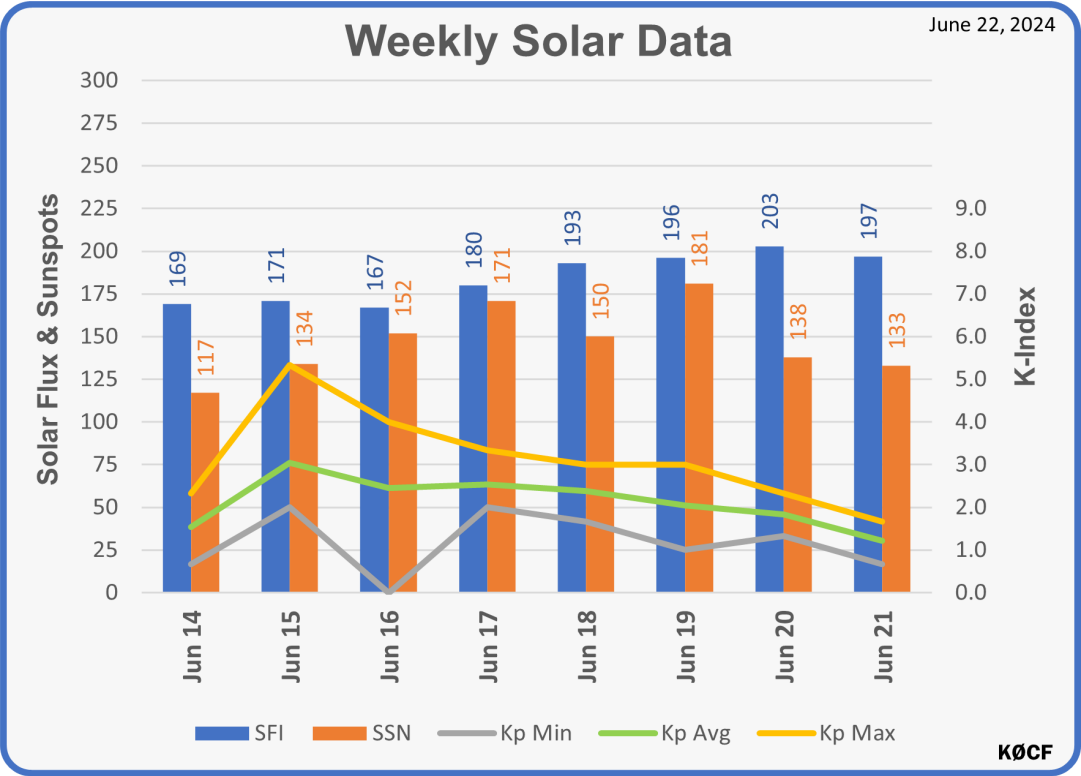
VU, INDIA. A number of special event stations will be active from Kargil, in the Indian Himalayan Region, to celebrate the 25th Kargil Vijay Diwas (Kargil Victory Day):

May 26th-30th	AT25KVG	QSL via VU2IRD
May 30th-June 3rd	AU25KVD	QSL via VU2XFD
June 3rd-7th	AT25KVE	QSL via VU2URC
June 10th-14th	AT25KAR	QSL via VU2FI
June 25th-30th	AT25KVF	QSL via the bureau

-[425DXN # 1725 May 25, 2024] (0524-0628)

VU, INDIA. Jose, VU2JOS, operates around the World Communications Day with the callsign **AU5J** **until June 30th**. QSL via [VU2JOS](#).
-[DXNL # 2407 May 22, 2024] (0524-0628)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

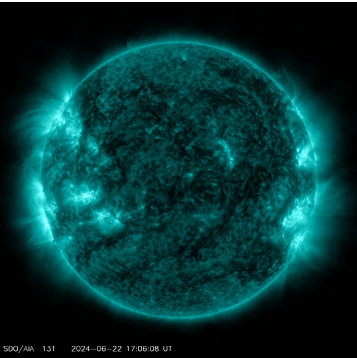
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, June 14th through yesterday, June 21st.

The average solar flux was 187, up 13 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 203 on Thursday, June 20th, following a low of 167 on June 16th.

The average sunspot count was 151, up 20 from last week, peaking at 181 on Wednesday, June 19th after a weekly low of 117 on June 14th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.1 with a maximum of 5.3 on Saturday, June 15th, resulting in minor geomagnetic storm conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 1.7, producing generally quiet geomagnetic conditions.

Solar flare activity since June 15th has been high with 12 major flares, the largest of which was an M 5.7 event on Thursday, June 20th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, June 15th through 1418 UTC, June 22nd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Jun 22	1106	M 1.0
2	Jun 22	0855	M 2.8
3	Jun 22	0438	M 1.2
4	Jun 20	2316	M 5.7
5	Jun 20	1518	M 1.1
6	Jun 19	0638	M 1.1
7	Jun 18	1220	M 1.1
8	Jun 18	1123	M 2.4
9	Jun 17	2035	M 1.3
10	Jun 17	1046	M 1.5
11	Jun 17	0804	M 1.5
12	Jun 15	0626	M 1.3

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Jun 22	60%	15%	200
Jun 23	60%	15%	190
Jun 24	60%	15%	190

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on June 17, 2024).

Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 22	175	3
Jun 23	190	3
Jun 24	190	2
Jun 25	180	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 26	175	2
Jun 27	180	2
Jun 28	190	2
Jun 29	180	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Jun 30	185	3
Jul 1	190	3
Jul 2	195	2
Jul 3	190	2

Sunspots Approaching "The Danger Zone"

Sunspots that don't face Earth can be dangerous. Why? Because the sun is like a lawn sprinkler. It'll all make sense in a minute. First, take a look at these sunspots approaching the sun's western limb:

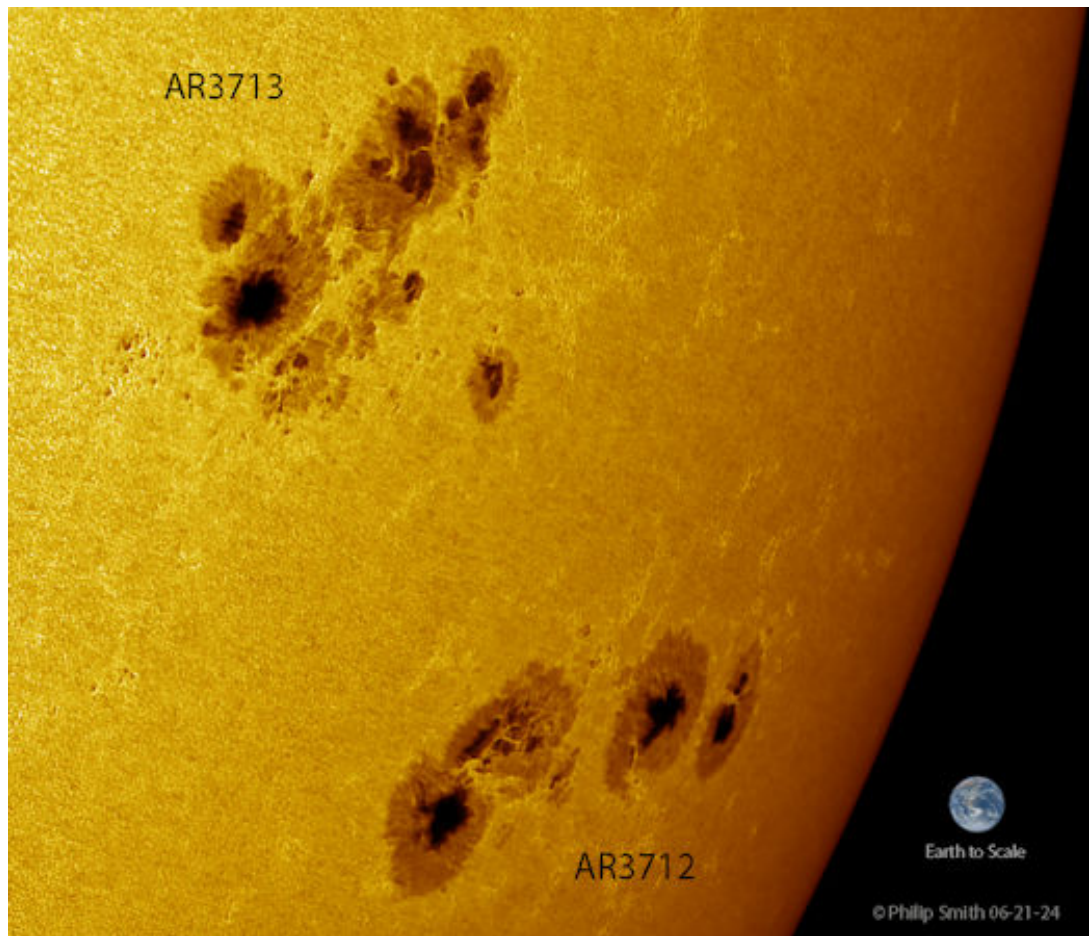
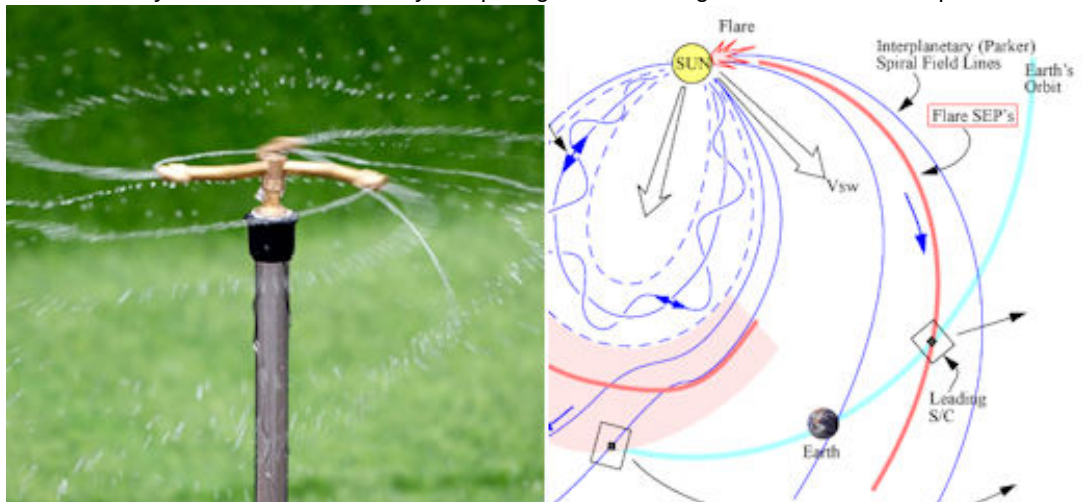


Photo Credit: Philip Smith of Manorville, New York

Both are turning away from Earth, yet any eruptions they produce this weekend could directly impact our planet. The sunspots are entering the "danger zone"--a region of the sun magnetically connected to Earth.

The best way to understand this is by comparing the sun's magnetic field to a lawn sprinkler:



On the left, a spinning nozzle sprays water in a backward arc. On the right, a spinning sun twists its own magnetic field into the same shape. Magnetic fields just beyond the sun's western limb (where the sunspots are heading now) curve back to touch our planet. This is called the "Parker Spiral" after solar physicist Eugene Parker, who first predicted its shape.

If either of these sunspots explodes while it is near the sun's western limb, energetic debris may be guided by the magnetic Parker Spiral right back to Earth. Indeed, this was precisely the cause of a "hard proton" storm on June 8th. Old sunspot AR3664 exploded in the danger zone and peppered our planet with energetic protons.

Could it happen again this weekend? Stay tuned.
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A New Source of Flares

Growing sunspot AR3719 exploded on June 20th, producing a [brief but intense](#) M5.7-class solar flare. Radiation from the flare caused a 15-minute shortwave radio blackout [over Hawaii](#). This sunspot was not expected to be very active, but now we know it adds to the chance of flares from behemoth sunspots AR3712 and 13. More on these below...
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Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.
Sunspots: 283 on April 21, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.spaceweather.com/>
<https://www.solarham.com/>
<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules

ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	Jun 22	1200Z	Jun 23	1200Z	Rules
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	Jun 22	1200Z	Jun 23	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 22	1800Z	Jun 23	2100Z	Rules
RAC Canada Day Contest	Jul 1	0000Z	Jul 1	2359Z	Rules
IARU HF World Championship	Jul 13	1200Z	Jul 14	1200Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Jul 20	1800Z	Jul 21	2100Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Jul 20	1800Z	Jul 21	0559Z	Rules
RSGB IOTA Contest	Jul 27	1200Z	Jul 28	1200Z	Rules
Alabama QSO Party	Jul 27	1500Z	Jul 28	0300Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	Aug 3	0001Z	Aug 4	2359Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 3	1800Z	Aug 4	0600Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, CW	Aug 10	0000Z	Aug 11	2359Z	Rules
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 10	1400Z	Aug 11	0400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Aug 17	1800Z	Aug 18	0600Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 18	1800Z	Aug 18	2359Z	Rules
Hawaii QSO Party	Aug 24	0400Z	Aug 26	0400Z	Rules
World Wide Digi DX Contest	Aug 24	1200Z	Aug 25	1200Z	Rules
YO DX HF Contest	Aug 24	1200Z	Aug 25	1200Z	Rules
Kansas QSO Party	Aug 24	1400Z	Aug 25	2000Z	Rules
Ohio QSO Party	Aug 24	1600Z	Aug 25	0400Z	Rules
UK/EI DX Contest, SSB	Aug 31	1200Z	Sep 1	1200Z	Rules
Tennessee QSO Party	Sep 1	1700Z	Sep 2	0300Z	Rules
CWops CW Open	Sep 7	0000Z	Sep 7	2359Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Sep 8	0000Z	Sep 8	0400Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Sep 14	0000Z	Sep 15	2359Z	Rules
ARRL September VHF Contest	Sep 14	1800Z	Sep 16	0300Z	Rules

North American Sprint, RTTY	Sep 15	0000Z	Sep 15	0400Z	Rules
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-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]

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